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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year 1953.

Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector -
F. HODSON, M.S.I.A.,A.M.I.S.E.,M.R.San.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st May 1954.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 & 1951.

The report shows that apart from a small outbreak of Poliomyelitis and an undue prevalence of Measles, the health of the district during the year remained satisfactory. The small number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year is particularly satisfactory.

I am indebted to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hodson, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year and for their assistance in preparing this report and to my clerk, Miss.P.Goddard, for her efficient services throughout the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Steptoe, your Housing Manager, Miss.Bradley, and all the other members of your staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies & Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Louis E Rawson.

Medical Officer of Health.

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 5 3.

A. Area - 45,364 acres.
Rateable value - £45,609.
Production of a penny rate - £180.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,710

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.		Comparative figures (a) Sturminster R.D.C.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	88	93	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; = 18.6	20.6	15.5
Legitimate	83	89			
Illegitimate	5	4			

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	2	-	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; = 0.2	0.2	0.35

DEATHS.

Total	55	64	Rate per 1,000 resident pop; = 11.2	8.28	11.4
Deaths in infants under one year	-	-	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	26.8

Deaths from Maternal Causes	- 1
" " Tuberculosis	- Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	- Nil
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	- 18
" " Influenza	- 3
" " Pneumonia	- 2
" " Motor vehical accidents	- 1
" " All other accidents	- Nil
" " Suicide	- 2

Comments.

The birth rate and death rate compare most favourably with those for England & Wales as a whole and no death occurred in an infant under one year of age, although one death from maternal causes occurred, it being the only one during the last seven years.

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the Ambulance Service, continued to be provided by the County Council and I do not feel that any comments are required with regard to these services.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

C. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district -

1. SANITARY STAFF.

Senior Sanitary Inspector - J.H.Dean, F.S.I.A.,C.R.S.I.
who also carries out duties of Waterworks & Sewerage Engineer.
Sanitary Inspector - F.Hodson, M.S.I.A.,A.M.I.S.E.,M.R.San.I.
This officer is engaged full time on sanitary duties.

Clerical Staff - one whole time clerk.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

(a) Quantity.

Consumption.

From Council's own Sources		144,717,000	
From Vincanton R.D.		15,141,000	159,858,000
Deduct Bulk Supplies to			
1) Dorchester R.D.C.			
(a) Brockhampton	2,202,000		
(b) Buckland Newton	3,627,000		
(c) Supplied direct from mains	2,000,000	7,828,000	
2) Sherborne R.D.C.			
(a) Holwell and Bishops Caundle	9,345,000		
Less Hardwick	275,000	9,070,000	16,898,000
NET DISTRICT CONSUMPTION -			142,960,000
Total water afforded by meter -			60,013,000
Total unmetered water (mainly domestic) -			82,847,000

Average per head per day based on population of 9,200 persons - 25 gallons.

Reliable Yields. The Council's own sources of water supply are from springs from greensand outcrops, and actual gaugings give the following reliable yields:-

Cookwell, Okeford Fitzpaine	150,000 g.p.d.
Duntish, Buckland Newton	96,000 g.p.d.
Ibberton	26,000 g.p.d.
Shillingstone	26,000 g.p.d.
Total -	298,000 g.p.d.

Shortage in water supplies occurred during the period of August, chiefly in the Stalbridge area, but very little restriction was necessary.

Owing to the steady progress in the development of the Alton Pancras scheme, it was possible to supply water to Sherborne R.D.C. at Kings Stagg from the new source, and thus save water in the low pressure main from Buckland Newton for Stalbridge supply. The total consumption over the year was approximately two million less than the previous year in spite of the fact that

additional water was supplied to Sherborne R.D.C., and that metered supplies in the district increased by a further five million gallons. In addition, the bulk supply from Wincanton was reduced by approximately one million gallons over the twelve months, all this in spite of increased water consumption for new houses and in connection with new drainage provided in connection with new sewerage schemes.

The reason for the decreased consumption has been the great attention paid to the elimination of waste, and it is gratifying to note that the average domestic consumption has been reduced from 27 gallons per head per day to 25.

(b) Quality. The quality of all the Council's supplies have remained in all respects satisfactory throughout the year. Regular monthly samples are submitted for bacteriological examination and a chemical examination is carried out each year.

(c) New Works. The following new works were carried out during the year -

(1) Continuation of 9" main from Kings Stagg towards Lydlinch Common.
Relaying of main at Child Okeford.
(2) Completion of new reservoirs at Buckland Newton and Fifehead Magdalen.

New Works to be done.

(1) 8" main Lydlinch Common to Stalbridge and Frith.

(2) Completion of 5" and 9" mains Kings Stagg to Sturminster Newton.

The above works are urgently required in order to make full use of Alton Pancras water, particularly during the period of the fall of the year when shortage normally occurs, and in particular to avoid taking water from Wincanton R.D.C., which it is understood they have difficulty in supplying.

Distribution.

PARISH	Council Mains			Private Mains			Wells etc.	
	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes.	In	Out	Public Stand-pipes.	In	Out
Child Okeford	136	10	-	4	-	-	1	8
Fifehead Magdalen	40	3	-	4	-	-	-	-
Fifehead Neville	35	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hazelbury Bryan	126	14	-	1	-	-	1	8
Hanford	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hammoon	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hinton St.Mary	7	-	-	37	12	-	-	2
Ibberton	24	5	2	1	-	2	2	-
Lydlinch	62	14	-	-	-	-	1	2
Manston	37	5	-	-	-	-	1	-
Mappowder	37	-	2	-	-	-	1	7
Marnhull	263	20	2	5	-	-	2	9
Okeford Fitzpaine	120	4	-	7	-	-	-	-
Pulham	34	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
Stalbridge	282	19	6	-	-	-	-	5
Shillingstone	137	6	-	4	-	-	4	5
Stoke Wake	-	-	-	14	2	-	-	-
Stourton Caundle	65	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Sturminster Newton	383	15	2	-	-	-	1	3
Woolland	-	-	-	17	3	1	-	6
Wootton Glanvilles	39	3	-	10	-	-	-	2
TOTAL	1850	133	16	106	17	3	14	62
Council houses	1003							
TOTAL	2717	133	16	106	17	3	14	62

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

New Works. During the year work was practically completed on the Child Okeford (No.5) Contract, the only outstanding item being the completion of the Pumping Station.

Sixty-six sewer connections were made during the year, and sixty-three conversions of earth closets to W.C's carried out.

Existing Works. Maintenance work at the smaller sewage works at Marnhull, Manston, Stourton Caundle, Hazelbury Bryan, Pulham, Mappowder and Glanvilles Wootton has been satisfactorily carried out by a "flying squad", which also operates the Council's cesspool emptier.

The Sewage Disposal Works at Stalbridge and Shillingstone have full time maintenance and are satisfactorily operated.

Samples of effluents are regularly taken by the Dorset County Council, and are usually found to be satisfactory.

Approved Schemes. Sturminster Newton - An immediate starting date has been received for the commencement of the new sewage disposal works and a small section of sewerage.

The following schemes have been approved by the Ministry, but have not yet been proceeded with:-

(a) Marnhull and Hinton St.Mary - Remaining part of Parishes and extension of sewage disposal works.

(b) Hazelbury Bryan - Remaining part of Parish and extension of sewage disposal works.

(c) Glanvilles Wootton - Sewering remainder of built up area.

(d) Lydlinch - This scheme for sewerage and sewage works disposal of a built up portion of the Parish, is considered to be urgent on account of damage to agricultural land by unsatisfactory drainage.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. During the year trouble has been experienced at the refuse disposal dump at Fifehead Neville, due to the water-logged nature of the site, particularly during the winter months. This made difficult the proper covering of the refuse, and at one stage, gave rise to nuisance from flies, which were controlled with the use of sprays containing D.D.T. and gannexane.

It has been found necessary to alter the refuse collection schedule in order to give extra working time for the men on the tip, and this has resulted in some curtailing of collections in the Parishes of Sturminster Newton, Marnhull, Stourton Caundle and Fifehead Magdalen, with an increase in the area of the Three Okefords. It is hoped that the new system will give sufficient time for adequate control measures on the tip, but the position over the last few years has become increasingly difficult, due, in no small measure, to the increase in the number of houses in the district.

Tipping of refuse at Copse House Quarry, Stalbridge, has been discontinued.

(b) Salvage. Materials to the value stated overleaf were salvaged and sold during the year.

Rags	£18.	13s.	11d.
Carpets	£1.	0s.	5d.
Bones	£1.	8s.	9d.
Mixed Metal	£23.	17s.	11d.
String		11s.	5d.
Bagging		4s.	9d.
Paper	£161.	10s.	8d.
	£207.	7s.	10d.

It is gratifying to note that the price for the baled waste paper has risen during the year, and has now reached the level of £5.10s.0d per ton, and it has been found possible to dispose of this material without difficulty.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The cesspool emptying service operated under section 74 of the Public Health Act 1936 has been valuable during the year and has almost completely eliminated cesspool nuisances.

This cesspool emptier is also used in connection with the maintenance of small sewage disposal works in small villages and on housing estates and also operated at the request of adjoining Rural District Councils.

No. of cesspools emptied during the year - 706

5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Pollution of the River Stour from the untreated sewage and milk factory effluent at Sturminster Newton continues. The proposed scheme for the provision of treatment works will eliminate this pollution.

Minor degrees of stream pollution take place in those parishes not yet provided with adequate sewerage schemes.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No. of inspections carried out	28
No. of defects found	3
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	21	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	29	30	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	25	4
Total -	62	76	9

	No. of cases in which defects were - Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	5	4
Sanitary Conveniences -		
(a) Insufficient	2	2
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1
	9	7

No. of outworkers = 84

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access.

10. MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No camping sites were licensed, but ten licences were granted permitting individual caravans to be stationed on specified sites.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The following infestations have been dealt with during the year:-

Cockroaches.	Fleas.	Flies.
10	6	6

The method used in connection with these infestations and which has proved satisfactory has been the use of Pybruthrin Powder.

12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

The Rodent Officer and his staff of two operatives are available for the treatment of infestations and the organisation has worked smoothly during the year.

During the year 45 infestations were notified to the Rodent Officer and 408 inspections were made by this Officer and his assistants and 386 treatments carried out.

The sewers in the Parishes of Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton have received treatment in February, June and July of this year.

13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

14. PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

There are no premises in the district licensed under this Act.

15. SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS).

During the year twelve inspections of school canteens have been carried out, and it has been noted that a generally high standard of cleanliness has been maintained. This was particularly so in respect of the canteen at Hazelbury Bryan.

Unsuccessful attempts have been made during the year, by informal action, to secure improvement in the sanitary conveniences at Child Okeford and Manston Schools. Formal action to improve the unsatisfactory conditions is called for.

16. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 & 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of persons requiring institutional or hospital care.

17. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	624
No. of inspections made	676
No. of informal notices served	24
No. of informal notices complied with	20
No. of statutory notices served	8
No. of statutory notices complied with	9

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936		5
Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -		
Demolition Orders made		Nil
Undertakings accepted for -		
(i) Closure	Nil	
(ii) Re-conditioning	1	
(iii) Other action - Section 9 notices	1	

During the year 12 unfit houses have been demolished and 10 reconditioned as a result of formal action. 10 unfit cottages have also been made in all respects fit as a result of informal action.

Most of the 'unfit' property remaining in the district is occupied by old people (many owner occupiers) who are content with the conditions under which they are living and in respect to whom hardship would be caused by any action being taken to deal with such property. No action has, therefore, been initiated in respect to such property until it has become vacated and the property has become potential homes for young families.

Overcrowding.

No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to Local Authority	Nil
No. of cases of overcrowding abated	Nil
Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

No. of Houses in the District.

No. of houses owned by the Council	1,068
No. of houses privately owned	2,242
Total -	3,310

Rural Housing Survey.

No. inspected (with classification)

Category 1	1,104
" 2	701
" 3) 4)	296
" 5	141
	2,242

From perusal of the Housing Survey Figures, it will be seen that there remain 141 properties scheduled for demolition, and in respect of these undertakings have been obtained in respect of fourteen, demolition orders are existing on twelve of the properties, six of which remain occupied, and Clearance Orders have been made in respect of twenty, of which twelve are still occupied. There is a balance of 95 cottages remaining to be dealt with, approximately 70% of which are occupied by the owners, or by elderly persons who have no wish to be disturbed.

Requisitioned Premises.

No. of houses held under requisition at the end of the year 6
No. of houses on which Demolition Orders or Closing Orders have been made, occupied under licence at the end of year _____

Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional Type.	Other.
(a) During 1953	-	-	77	-
(b) Post-war	35	20	730	22

Total No. of families re-housed during the year 195

At the end of the year there were 80 applicants for Council houses compared with 110 at the end of 1952 and 120 at the end of 1951.

During the year 17 recommendations for the granting of priority on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council houses were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the conditions under which 27 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Improvement Grants - Housing Acts 1949 & 1952.

15 applications for Improvement Grants under the above-mentioned Acts were received during the year. Grants in respect to 12 applications were made. One application was withdrawn and the remaining two were still under consideration at the end of the year.

It is encouraging to note that there has been a considerable increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants. This increase is probably due to the easing of licensing restrictions and the raising of the maximum approved expenditure from £600. to £800. In addition, increased publicity by supplying owners of properties suitable for 'improvement' with particulars of the grant aid available may have been a contributory factor.

18. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF MILK SUPPLIES.

Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949 by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulation 1949 1

No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 4

No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 10

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year:-

	Passed.	Failed.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested	8	1	9
Accredited	2	-	2
Pasteurised	146	1	147
Non-designated	19	11	31

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Food & Drugs Act - Section 9.

An unsuccessful prosecution of a milk vendor was undertaken during the year in respect to an alleged complaint that a dead mouse was found in a bottle of milk supplied to the complainant.

Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		113
No. being -	restaurant kitchens	4
	hotel kitchens	24
	food factories	12
No. of such premises inspected		155
No. of inspections -	restaurant kitchens	10
	hotel kitchens	12
	food factories	20
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938		46
No. of such premises registered in respect to -		
(a) Ice-cream	36	
(b) Sausages and prepared meats	10	
No. of premises inspected during the year		64
No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test		51

Results:- Grade 1 - 34
" 2 - 13
" 3 - 3
" 4 - 1

No. of inspections of food stalls 46

Basement Bakehouses.

There are three Basement Bakehouses in use in the district. In accordance with Section 54 of the Factories Act 1937 examination of these Bakehouses have been carried out and certificates of suitability have been issued in respect to them.

Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. Nil.

(b) Butchers and other shops. Quantities condemned:-

Pork	-	369¾ lbs.
Beef	-	297½ "
Liver	-	37¼ "
Cod fillets	-	60 "
Dried Apricots	-	60 "
Sausages	-	26 "
Bacon	-	14 "

Other Food - Quantities condemned:-

Tins and jars of food - 165.

19. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

No. of investigations carried out	Nil
No. of disinfections carried out	2

20. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	2,057
Total No. of Informal notices served	75
Total No. of Informal notices complied with	74
Total No. of Statutory notices served	3
Total No. of Statutory notices complied with	2
No. of prosecutions	1

D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence -

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.
Measles	289
Whooping Cough	8
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	7
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Erysipelas	6
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	4
Poliomyelitis (Non.Paralytic)	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Scarlet Fever	1
Malaria (contracted abroad)	1

It will be seen that Measles was epidemic during the year. The cases of Poliomyelitis all occurred in a limited area in the Shillingstone district. Every effort was made to trace the original source of infection without success. The spread of infection from case to case could well have been direct or through the intermediary of family contacts.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
2	2	-	-

These figures compare satisfactorily with the average over the previous seven years where the average number of new cases was 7 and the average number of deaths was 2 a year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.